

REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough examination of the application. No new matter is believed to be added to the application by this amendment.

Status Of The Claims

Claims 1, 3 and 5-17 are pending in the application. Claims 18-21 are cancelled by this amendment. Claims 1, 3 and 5-17 are allowed.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) Over Oka

Claims 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Oka (U.S. Patent 5,143,377). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claims 18 and 19 are cancelled by this amendment, thereby rendering this rejection moot.

Double Patenting

Claims 20 and 21 are objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.75 as being substantial duplicates of claims 6 and 7. Claims 20 and 21 are cancelled by this amendment, thereby making this objection moot.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner is thanked for considering the Information Disclosure Statement filed January 5, 2004 and for making the initial PTO-1449 of record for the application in the Office Action mailed July 28, 2004.

Prior Art

Prior art is cited but not utilized by the Examiner indicates the status of the conventional art that the invention supercedes. Additional comments are accordingly are not necessary.

Priority

The Examiner has acknowledged foreign priority most recently in the Office Action mailed February 22, 2005.

Drawings

The Examiner is respectfully requested to indicate whether the drawing figures are acceptable in the next official action.

Conclusion

The Examiner's rejection and objection have been overcome, obviated or rendered moot. No issues remain. The Examiner is accordingly respectfully requested to place the application in condition for allowance and to issue a Notice of Allowability.

If any questions arise regarding the above matters, please contact Applicant's representative, Robert E. Goozner (Reg. No. 42,593), in the Washington Metropolitan Area at the phone number listed below.

Application No.: 10/750,827
Amendment of May 20, 2005

Docket No.: 3673-0164P

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,



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